



2018 SOUTHWEST IDAHO Prescribed Fire

IN SOUTHWEST IDAHO, PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS WORK TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS; TREAT INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATIONS, REDUCE THE RISK OF SEVERE WILDFIRES THROUGH VEGETATIVE TREATMENTS AND PRESCRIBED FIRE, AND ACHIEVE OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE OBJECTIVES.



**BOISE NATIONAL FOREST
PRESCRIBED FIRE HOTLINE
(208) 373-4208**

WWW.RXFIRE.COM

PRESCRIBED FIRES:

Focusing on Healthy and Resilient Forests:

Public land managers use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to reduce the risks of large catastrophic wildfires by reducing crown fire potential and fire severity. These treatments alter fire behavior and severity by reducing stand densities to levels less supportive of crown fire. By raising canopy base heights, reducing surface fuels loads, and selecting fire tolerant species such as (Western larch, Ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir) a mosaic of stand-size classes are created making the forest more resilient to catastrophic fire behavior. Other benefits of these treatments include wildlife habitat improvement, air quality, reducing insect and disease infestations, rangeland improvements, etc.

Substantial progress has been made, particularly in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas and the number of acres treated annually is steady. However, inherent challenges can limit land managers from applying prescribed fires on as many acres each year as necessary. These challenges include weather, air quality and smoke management, timing restrictions, wildfire activity, resource availability.

Reducing hazardous fuels through prescribed fire and other tools is one of the key components of the National Fire Plan. Additionally, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy looks at a three pronged approach to reducing fires, with a focus on resilient landscapes, fire

adapted communities, and effective fire response. The Strategy highlights that “addressing wildfire is not simply a fire management, fire operations, or wildland-urban interface problem — it is a larger, more complex land management and societal issue.”

The Strategy sets the vision for the next century to: “Safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, [learn to] live with wildland fire.” A key to this strategy is to reduce fuel concentrations and threats of uncharacteristic wildfires, especially in the wildland urban interface.

Prescribed fires on federal lands must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires extensive analysis of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of projects with public participation. The Farm Bill and Healthy Forest Restoration Act provides an expedited process using collaboration and integration with county hazard mitigation plans, state fuels committee priorities, and direct work with local communities.

Fuel reduction management is a long-term proposition, but through annual programs combining federal, state and private land, and the people responsible or affected, the journey to return much of our forests to a historic condition and reduce the threat to life and property will begin to occur.

Acres of Treatment Planned for 2018

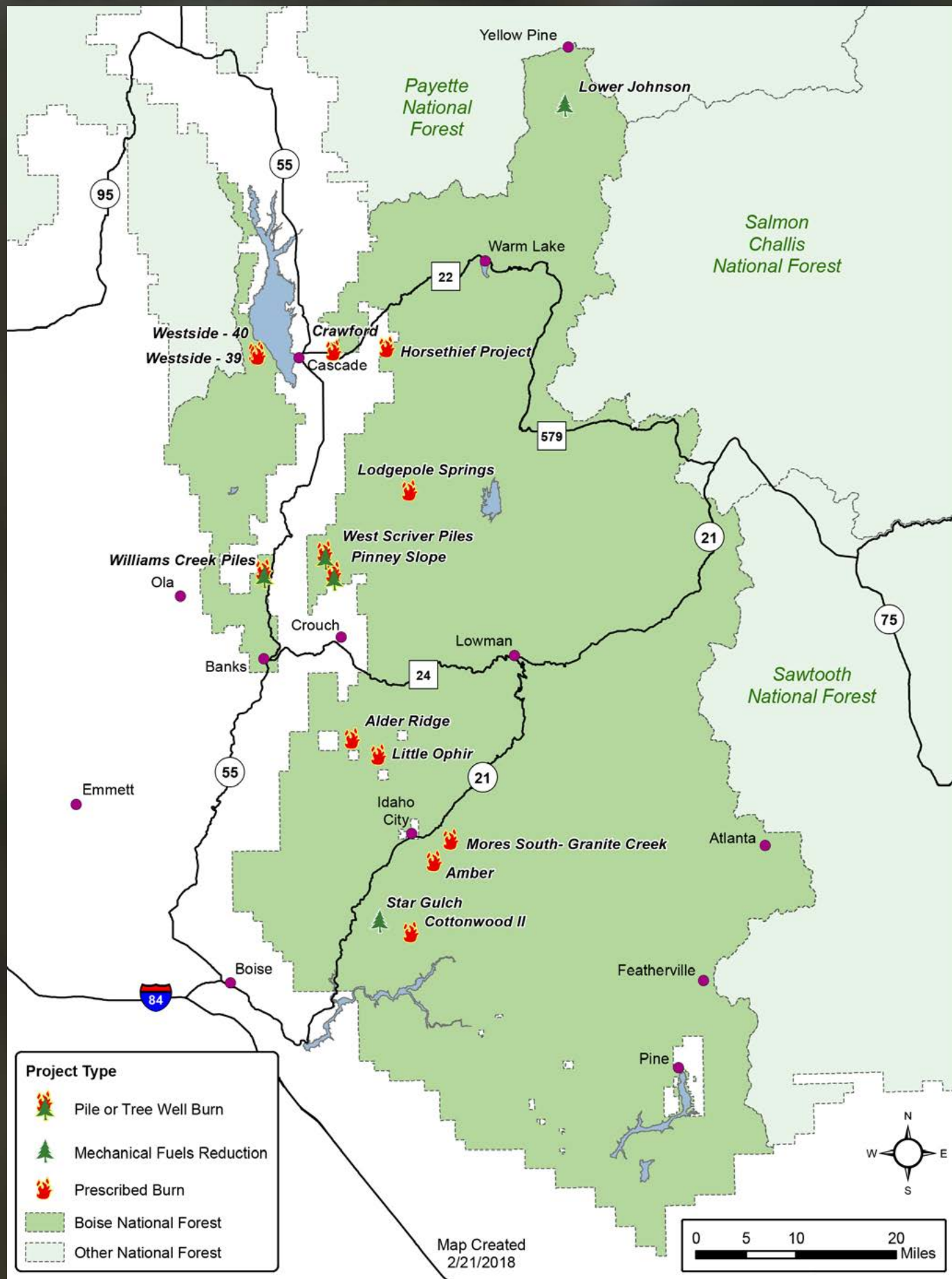
AGENCY	PRESCRIBED FIRE TREATMENTS			MECHANICAL TREATMENT ACRES	TOTAL FUELS TREATMENTS BY AGENCY
	Spring	Fall	Total		
Idaho Department of Lands	0	5,267	5,267	6464	11,731
Boise National Forest	2,480	4,006	6,486	1350	7,836
Boise District BLM	2,846	0	2,846	2304	5,150
Payette National Forest	15,650 Spring/Fall (500 Fall Only)		16,150	9,374	25,524

Southwest Idaho Total Fuels Treatment Acres Planned

50,241

FUELS TREATMENT PROJECTS

Boise National Forest 2018



PROGRAM SUCCESS: BOISE DISTRICT BLM



Pole Creek Prescribed Burn

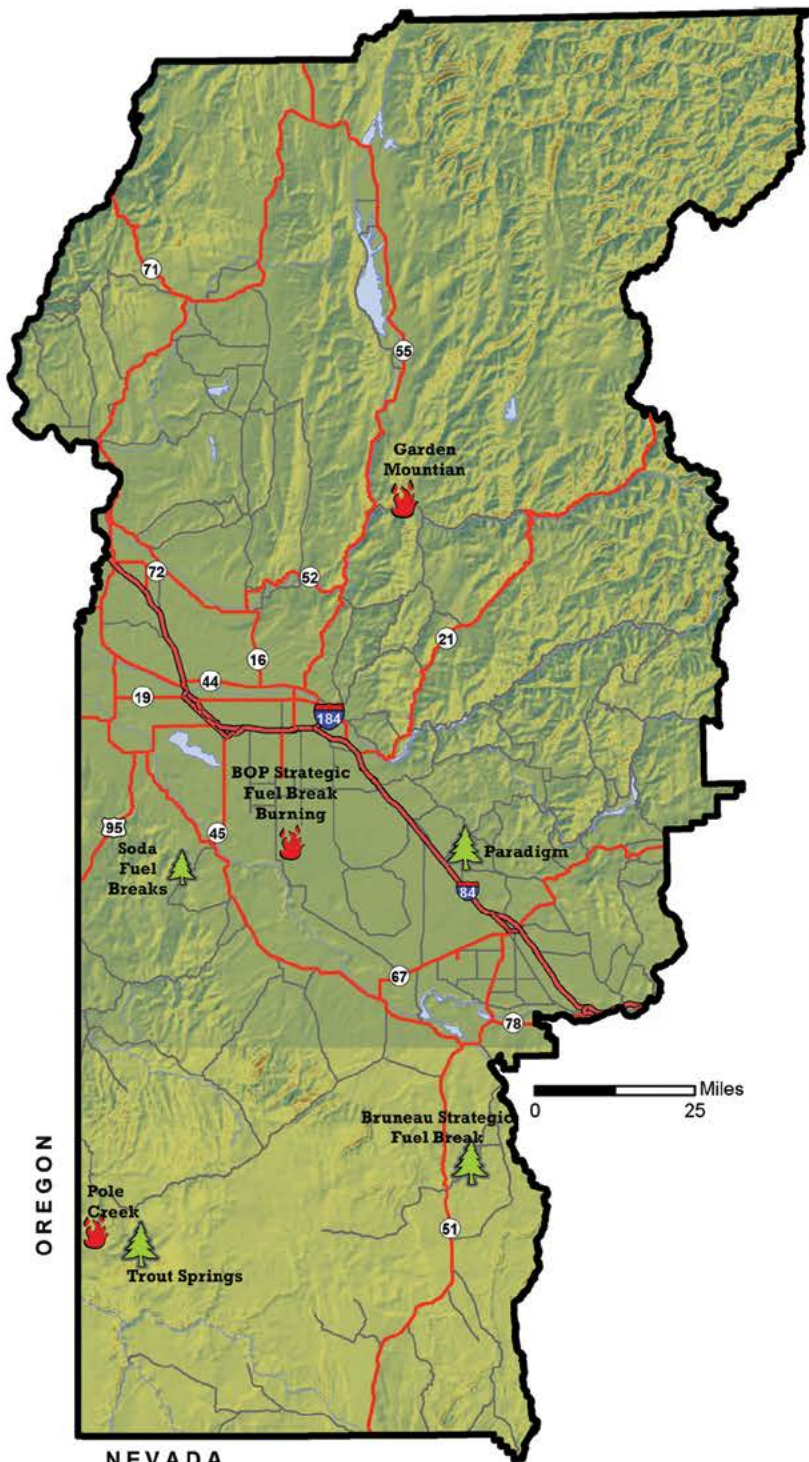
The Boise BLM (Owyhee Field Office) used prescribed fire to treat 6,608 acres of BLM lands within the Pole Creek Prescribed Burn Project area in the fall of 2017. The prescribed burn consisted of two units located on the western flanks of Juniper Mountain which is located approximately 35 miles south of Jordan Valley, Oregon. The prescribed burns took place during the last week of September taking 5 days to complete. Fire managers utilized two helicopters and 5 fire engines with about 40 personnel to conduct the operation.

The Pole Creek prescribed burn was authorized by the Pole Creek Allotment Permit Renewal Environmental Assessment. A grazing decision implementing changes to livestock management and a juniper treatment decision

were issued to address resource issues caused by current and historic livestock grazing and juniper encroachment. The combination of the two decisions were aimed at improving upland and riparian conditions, moving the area much closer to reference conditions impaired due to juniper encroachment. In preparation to conduct the prescribed fire approximately 4,774 acres of juniper within a 6,608 acre project area were pretreated on BLM lands with a combination of girdling and felling of trees within the units to create a fuel bed that will meet objectives of the prescribed burn. This was the second fall broadcast prescribed fire that has taken place within the Pole Creek Allotment with the first being the Manata Flat Prescribed Burn in 2015.

FUELS TREATMENT PROJECTS




Boise District BLM 2018



Legend

Fuels Treatments

Treatment Methods

-  Physical Treatment
-  Prescribed Fire Treatment
-  BLM District Office

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION:

Using Mechanical and Fire Treatments Together Near Communities at Risk

Local public land managers are working diligently to manage vegetation (fuels) within fire-adapted ecosystems. This effort is an integral strategy to reduce the occurrence of uncharacteristic wildfires and reduce the threat of wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface. With increased emphasis to protect wildland urban interface areas managers are using mechanical treatment methods in combination with prescribed fire.

For several years, land managers primarily used management-ignited fires or prescribed burns in areas where vegetative conditions and fuel loading allowed successful and efficient use of fire. Prescribed fire is used to begin the restoration process in fire adapted ecosystems. These low intensity burns are used to maintain desired vegetative conditions and reduce fuel buildup.

Prescribed fire alone as the first treatment is not always feasible because of the current density of the vegetation and fuel loading. Dense vegetation near the forest floor and extending up to the crowns of trees predisposes some areas to severe wildland fires, potentially leaving watersheds, species, and people at risk.

When thickets of small understory trees fill a site, treatment often requires a combination of initial mechanical work followed by prescribed fire to safely or effectively use fire. Both prescribed fire and mechanical methods are being integrated to change fire behavior, making conditions safer for the public and firefighters when homes must be protected in the wildland urban interface.

DEQ PM 2.5 Monitors in Southwest Idaho:

Garden Valley, Idaho
City, Ketchum, McCall
Twin Falls, Boise

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

Based on DEQ's analysis of pollutant indicators and meteorological conditions, a color-coded system notifies the public of the forecasted air quality condition for the following day. When air quality is expected to be good, a green alert is issued; when air quality is deteriorating, a yellow alert is issued; when air quality is poor and expected to deteriorate even further, a red alert is issued. Precautionary measures are described for each type of alert.

AIR MONITORING:

Air Quality Standards in Place

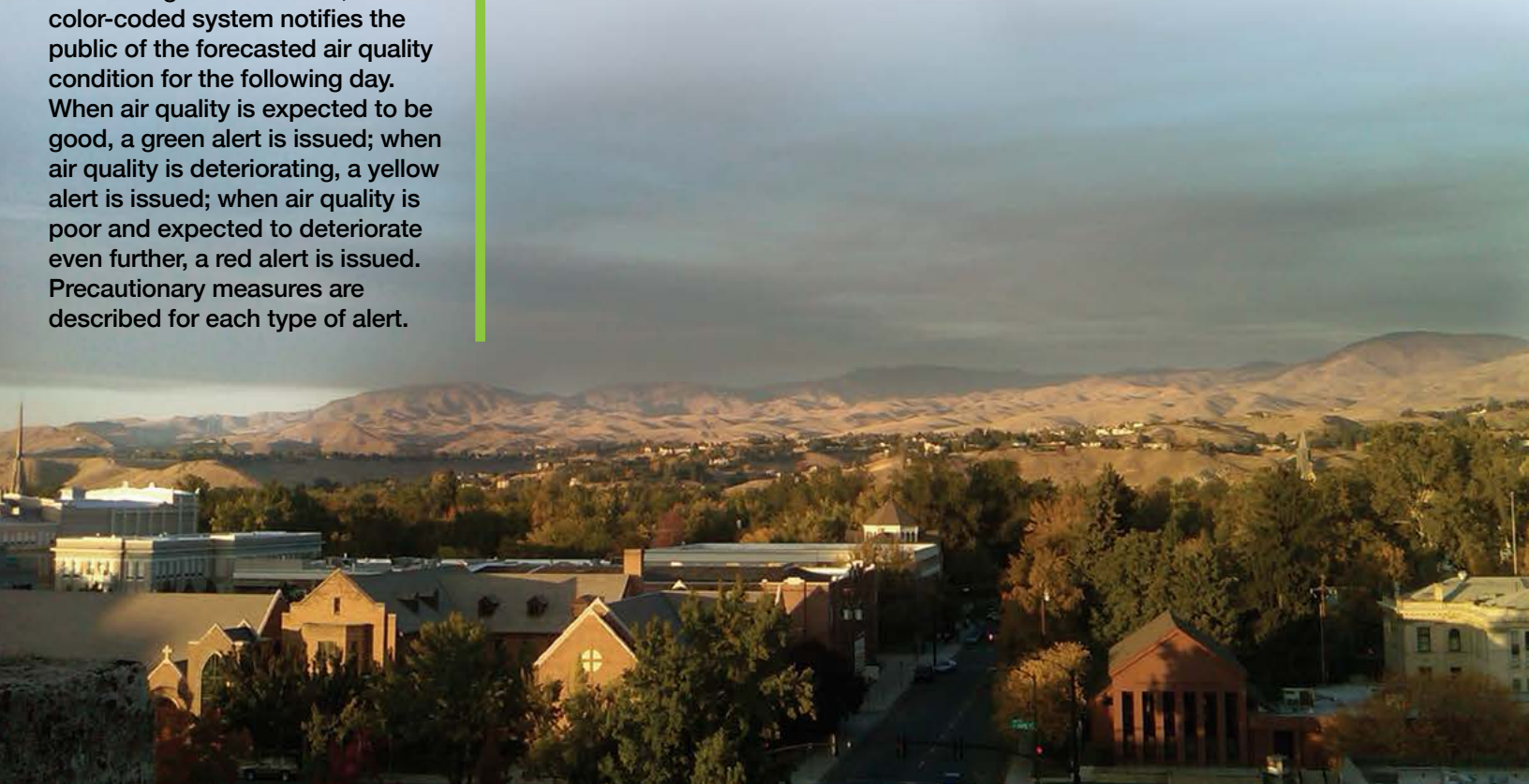
Natural resource agencies work with the National Weather Service to get real time conditions before igniting prescribed fires and those conditions are monitored closely to maximize smoke dispersion. Factors evaluated include wind direction and speed, atmospheric stability, and longrange weather forecasts. Yet even in favorable conditions, the air may still become smoky, especially at night. Often, although the air is smoky, it still meets federal and state air quality standards. Whenever possible, agencies provide advanced notice of potential burning plans so that persons with air quality sensitivities will be able to make personal adjustments.

Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality's real-time air monitoring program collects realtime measurements of ambient levels of air contaminants at more than 20 sites throughout the state. Integrated sampling methods are used at another 10 sites.

DEQ improved its website to provide the public with accurate information from its real-time air monitoring stations around the state. Realtime air monitoring data is located at <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/>

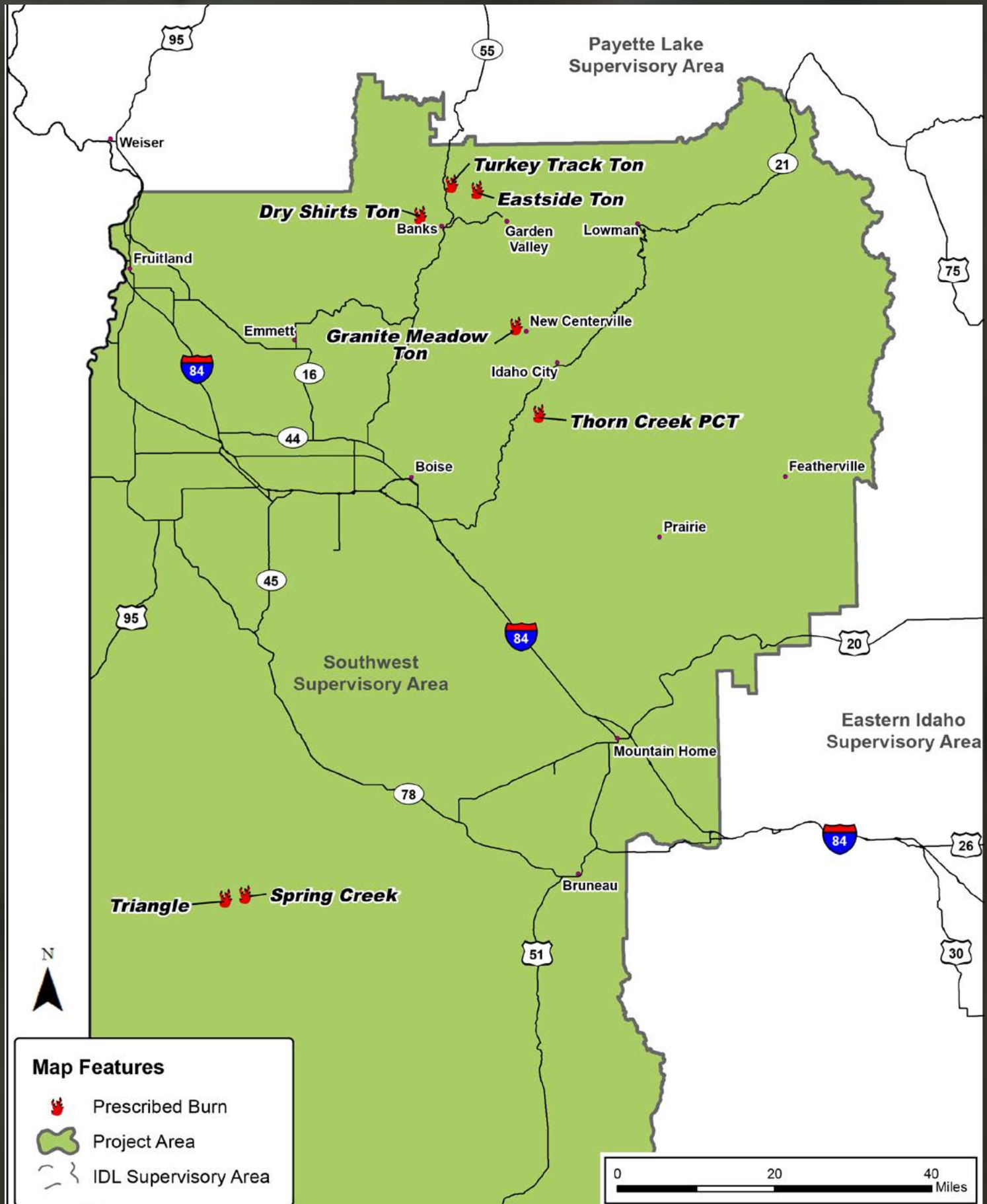
For More Information

Detailed descriptions of fire projects are available on our website (www.rxfire.com) along with a local contact number to discuss the project. Prescribed fires must be ignited under certain weather conditions, both to achieve natural resource management objectives and to meet air quality standards. It is difficult to determine exactly when they will occur. Burns planned for each day can be found on line at www.smokemu.org. Individuals potentially affected by prescribed fires are encouraged to refer to this website on a daily basis during the spring and fall burning seasons.



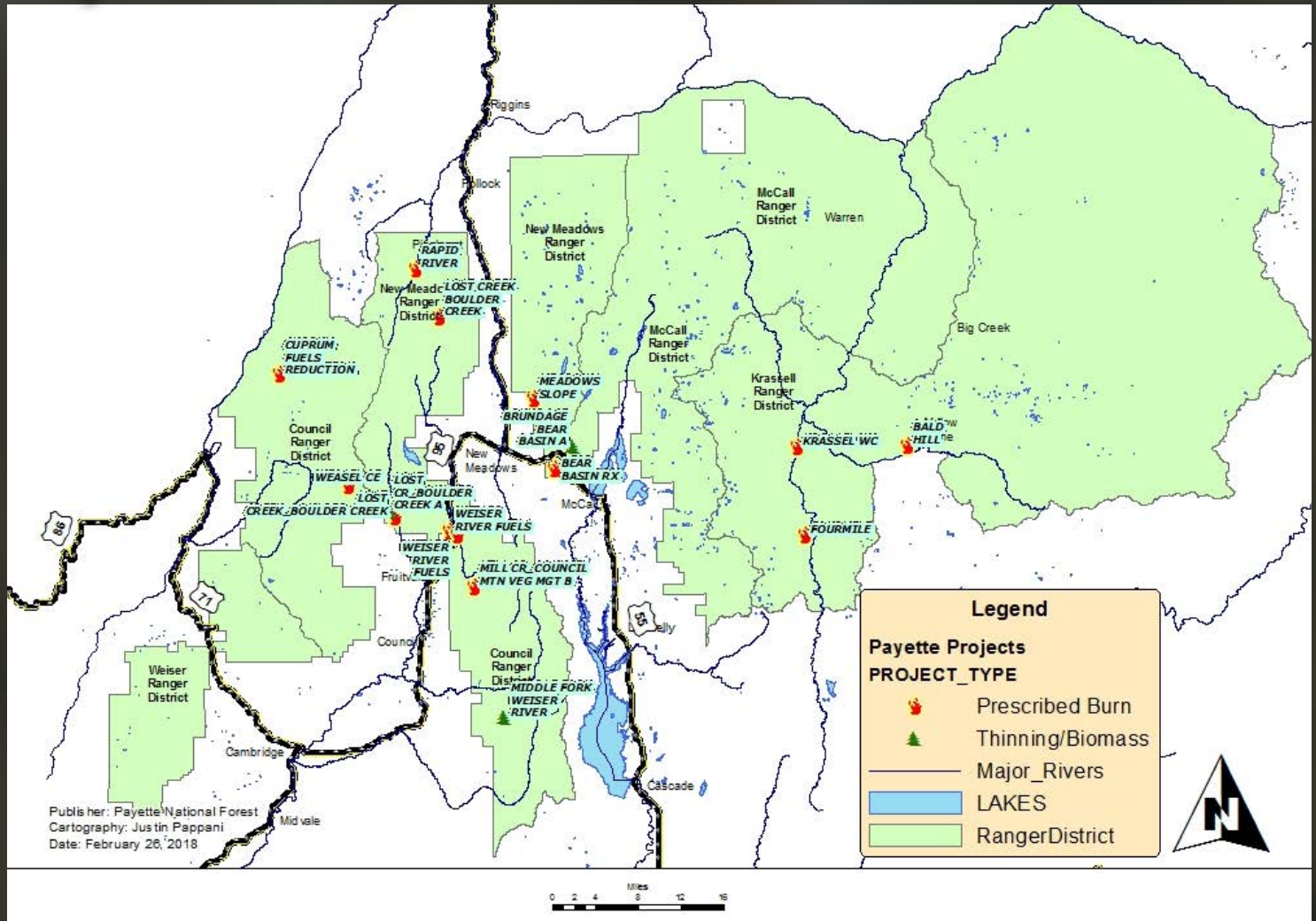
FUELS TREATMENT PROJECTS

Idaho Department of Lands 2018



FUELS TREATMENT PROJECTS

Payette National Forest 2018



Boise National Forest
1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 373-4100

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/boise/>

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PHOTOS:
Kari Greer/US Forest Service
Kari@kariphot.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN
Kimberly L. Clark
kim@myartpeople.com